



Catholic Maritime News

SUMMER 2019

VOLUME 91

Mission of Presence, Mission of Mercy

In his address to the Stella Maris - Apostleship of Sea in Europe this June Pope Francis affirmed our ministry in a beautiful way. Among the images he used is one that resonates with what I hear from chaplains, ministers and volunteers around the country:

"Your ministry to sailors and fishermen is above all one of listening to them and to their material and spiritual needs. "Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders" (Evangelii Gaudium, 171)."

Each of you in a special way has a gift of a listening heart and this is what has called you to the ministry. For me it's a special privilege to hear the AOS Chaplain talk about a person visited and a story shared. So often what follows is that when a person feels heard and affirmed, the person not only may have a problem solved but even more deeply may receive healing and understanding. What a blessing to share in this ministry!

Pope Francis went on to speak about the mercy that the AOS Chaplain offers to those involved in the sea. Acknowledging the practical hardships that seafarers face in maintaining their spirituality and prayer life Pope Francis said:

"Dialogue with a chaplain may well open up new horizons of hope. So I would say to you: be merciful, be merciful. And to favour that mercy, I grant to all chaplains of sailors the same faculties I have given to the Missionaries of Mercy. In this way, you will be able to bring peace to so many hearts."

What a blessing the Holy Father has given to us by his



Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

words of encouragement and his recognition of our special ministry! May each of us continue to pray and encourage one another to have a listening and merciful heart, trusting in the intercession of Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

+ Brendan Cahill

The Love of Christ Urges Us

By Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

The celebration of the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea is very important for the Church. Every year, the National office of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops remembers those who serve as merchant mariners, seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas. Masses and prayers are offered on their behalf. Catholics are encouraged to remember them in prayers and to participate in works of charity on their behalf.

The chaplains, religious, deacons as well as lay ministers and volunteers, carry out their ministry to the seafarers with renewed energy and commitment, providing pastoral outreach in many maritime ports. Engaging in AOS ministry shows the Catholic Church's care and concern for those who cannot participate in regular parish life because of the nature of their work. The National office continues to work towards strengthening and reinforcing existing structures that are helpful to the growth and development of AOS ministry. The AOS ministry continues to grow and touches the souls and hearts of many. As Saint Paul teaches, let all of us be urged on by the love of Christ. (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14). If we wish to love God, we must reach out to others. Let the love of Christ move us forward to



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ



Catholic Maritime News

is published by the

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) National Office

3 times a year – Spring, Summer and Winter.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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We encourage you to visit our website which has user friendly navigation tools. Check out our interactive map with a list of AOS chaplains and contacts, know about news and events and other relevant information.

Contact Catholic Maritime News

We welcome your comments, feedback and suggestions.
Tell us what you think by sending an email to AOS@uscbb.org.

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Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA) is a professional membership association of chaplains/associates, cruise ship priests, mariners, student mariners and affiliate members.

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support and care for one another.

The AOS centers are places of hospitality, they offer ship visits, on site chapel for prayer services, shuttle to local stores and shopping centers, phone cards, free phone use, e-mail, computers with internet connection, television, magazines, lounge, snacks, games or simply a place to relax. The chaplains celebrate Holy Mass, shipboard communion service, counselling, confession and other sacraments. They also bless the ports, ships, boats, fishing fleets and other services for crew members. I pray that all of us may be urged by the love of Christ to be bearers of the Good News. I pray that as more people hear this message, may they desire to serve and discover the importance of ministry to the people of the sea.

As we celebrate annually and remember those who work or travel on the seas, especially the seafarers, fishers, their families, may the love of Christ urge all to reach out to serve and care for the physical and spiritual needs of seafarers and their families. I encourage all: do not hesitate to allow the love of Christ to urge you on.



Rev. Fr. Peter (Yunping) Lin, AOS Chaplain, port of Port Everglades, FL and Deacon Jose S. "Pepe" Chirinos, AOS Deacon, Port of Miami.

Calming consciences: Pope gives seafarer chaplains special powers

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis gave priests who minister to seafarers special permission to grant absolution for sins that usually would require the intervention of a bishop or the Vatican itself.

"I want to say something about peace in one's heart," the pope said June 27 during a meeting with chaplains and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea working at European ports.

"Many seafarers come or will come to priest chaplains

with problems on their conscience that make them suffer a lot because they have never had a chance to deal with them," the pope said, departing from his prepared text.

"In these situations, far from home, from their countries, in these situations that we have described, perhaps a dialogue with the chaplain will open a horizon of hope," the pope said.

"Be merciful. Be merciful," Pope Francis told the chaplains.

"To help you with this mercy," he said, "I concede to all seafarer chaplains the same permissions that I gave to the 'missionaries of mercy' so that you can help many hearts find interior peace."

The "missionaries of mercy" were priests chosen by the Vatican for the 2015-2016 Year of Mercy to preach about God's mercy and, especially, to encourage Catholics to rediscover the grace of the sacrament of reconciliation.

In a permission later extended to all priests, Pope Francis granted them the power to absolve penitents who regretted having an abortion or playing a role in someone's decision to have an abortion. He also authorized them to lift some penalties imposed by canon law.

Through the chaplains and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea, the Catholic Church gives support and solace to a group of workers facing constant danger and frequent exploitation, Pope Francis told the group.

While sailors and fishermen deliver the goods people rely on every day, they face the seafaring dangers of storms and piracy, long periods of time away from their families and working conditions that are often harsh and low-paying, the pope told chaplains and volunteers working at ports across Europe.

"Without sailors, the global economy would come to a standstill; and without fishermen, many parts of the world would starve," the pope said.

Isolation and distance are not the only hardships seafarers face, he said. They also risk the "shameful experiences of abuse and injustice," including human trafficking and forced labor.

"At other times, they are not paid their rightful salary or are left behind in distant ports," he said. "In addition to threats from nature – storms and hurricanes – they must face human threats, such as piracy or terrorist attacks."

Too often, he said, "they cross the world's oceans and seas, landing in ports where they are not always welcome."

But the Apostleship of the Sea and its Stella Maris centers at some 300 ports worldwide bring human kindness, material support and the Gospel, Pope Francis said.

"With compassion and discretion, you give them a chance to pour out their hearts," he said. "This is the first and most

precious service that you provide, above all to those who have few similar opportunities."

"Listening can then lead to action," both for spiritual healing as well as for defending the rights of workers who often are invisible to the larger society, the pope said.

The presence of chaplains and volunteers at ports around the world is "a sign of God's fatherhood and the fact that, in his eyes, we are all children, brothers and sisters to one another."

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**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING FOR
CHAPLAINS AND VOLUNTEERS
OF THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA
Clementine Hall**

Thursday, 27 June 2019

Can Be found on the Vatican Website in English
<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2019/06/27/0548/01143.html#en>



*O Mary, Star of the Sea,
light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark
and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of
peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea.*

*As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross
the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of
your womb, for without your Son we are lost.*

*Pray that we will never fail on life's journey, that in heart
and mind, in word and deed, in days of turmoil and in days
of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, "Who is this
that even wind and sea obey him?"*

*Our Lady Star of the Sea,
Pray for us. Amen*

~Pope John Paul II

Becoming a seafarers' chaplain was not exactly his retirement plan

BY AGNIESZKA RUCK



Deacon Dileep Athaide said becoming a deacon and a chaplain to seafarers was an unexpected but fulfilling turn of events. (Agnieszka Ruck photos)

A few years ago, Deacon Dileep Athaide could never have guessed he'd become a frequent visitor on the immense coal and container ships dotting the horizon in Delta and Vancouver.

Yet nearly every day he finds himself donning a hard hat, reflective vest, and steel-toed boots, chatting with security guards who recognize his white collar; and climbing high ladders into cargo ships as a chaplain to seafarers.

"It's only three years that I've been doing this, but it feels like 10 years – in a good way," Deacon Athaide, 69, told The B.C. Catholic while on board a Japanese coal carrier at Westshore Terminals in Delta.

The crew on this ship – about two dozen in all – are from the Philippines, and have spent months away from their families, religious customs, and country to work.

"For the seafarers, it's a paradox. In order to look after their families, they leave their families." They may make anywhere from US\$ 12,000 to 150,000 a year, but even those on the lower end of the scale are grateful for the job, since it's often more than they would make back at home.

Still, the work can be incredibly isolating. Being stuck on a ship several storeys high, thousands of kilometres from home, and at times waiting an entire month to set foot on land, is a daily challenge for seafarers.

Deacon Athaide boards these vessels to offer prayers, rosaries, ship blessings, a listening ear, and a free ride out of the port to a nearby mall or church. As a deacon, he can't celebrate Mass or hear confessions, but he can invite a priest

on board, or bring Communion and lead a service.

He also drops off day-old treats donated from Cobs bakery, and on special occasions, like Christmas, gives away thousands of gift-wrapped toques, scarves, jackets, and chocolate bars.

"The pastoral and the practical needs are all intertwined. It's through the practical means that they open up and you get a relationship."

Living unseen

Seafarers connect the world. Coal ships at Westshore Terminals handle more than 30 million tonnes of coal per a year. Last year, Canada's largest port, Vancouver, handled



The deacon delivers free Cobs bread twice weekly to the ports.

147 million-or-so tonnes of imports and exports – cars, coal, grain, oil, sugar, tech – valued at \$200 billion.

These 20-foot or 40-foot containers, thousands aboard every ship, carry "anything from specialty cars to furniture to televisions," said Deacon Dileep. "The laptop you own, they didn't fly it here. It wasn't manufactured in Canada or the United States. It was manufactured in Korea or China somewhere."

Though they provide a bridge to the world, seafarers themselves are disconnected. Only recently has WiFi become readily available on board, and, inspectors aside, Deacon Athaide may be the only visitor these sailors entertain for months.

The men usher Deacon Athaide through the galley and into the officers' mess, where the higher-paid crew gather to eat. The cook's assistant quickly distributes a few water bottles (with labels indicating they travelled all the way from Japan) and soon brings out lunch: fried noodles, fresh salad, and a sausage-egg-meatloaf combination.

Whenever he meets a crew member, Deacon Athaide asks: "How are you? Is everything okay?" The response is often "fine," but he's ready to listen, say a prayer, and offer consolation any time a serious situation arises. In just three

years, several have.

"About six months ago, a chief cook died a day before coming here." The man, practically in sight of the port, had run out of critical medication too soon. Another time, a chief engineer had a heart attack and died at sea, also one day before his Vancouver arrival.

In both cases, Deacon Athaide offered to bless the



Deacon Athaide meets crew members aboard a Japanese coal ship.

ship with holy water and prayed for the men who were traumatized after the deaths. "If they were at home, they would be at Mass with their family, with their kids," he said.

"That's why I like to wear my collar. It's that comfort level, and it reminds them if they have forgotten that they can still practise their faith."

An estimated 50 per cent of seafarers are not Catholic; he does not hesitate to offer a listening ear or free pastries, and is surprised and pleased when they ask for prayer, too.

"Port ministry is not just saying Mass on a ship, much like how campus ministry isn't just saying Mass in the campus chapel or prison ministry is saying Mass in the prison. It is a pastoral ministry."

Unexpected journey

Spending his free time on cargo ships wasn't exactly Deacon Athaide's retirement plan. A man of many interests, Deacon Athaide has been a geologist, professor, labour leader, and even a thoroughbred horse owner. Chaplaincy came as a surprise.

Born in a devout Catholic suburb of Bombay, India, Athaide was deeply rooted in his faith from a young age. He would pray the Rosary with his family every day, but didn't consider becoming a priest and had never heard of permanent deacons.

He was 14 years old when his family immigrated to Canada in 1964. "Montreal was super Catholic at the time. We came to a Montreal where, if you were five minutes late

for church, you couldn't find a seat."

After Grade 11, Athaide went directly into first-year engineering at McGill University. He changed gears in his second year when he discovered a love for geology after taking a single course on the subject, completed a geology degree at McGill, then moved to B.C. in 1971 for graduate studies at UBC.

There, once again, he found himself in a vibrant Catholic community; this time, thanks to the Basilian priests at St. Mark's College and the Catholic young adults he tried to minister to between classes.

As a graduate student, he also discovered he loved to teach, and earned a teaching certificate. He spent the next few decades teaching geology and adult basic education at Capilano University and UBC.

Athaide had a heart for service. When he noticed a trend of young adults travelling overseas to do mission work, he founded the Communitas International Volunteer Society. The registered Canadian charity sent volunteers to a developing country for one year at a time, and it was while travelling with his organization that he met his wife. "I didn't go looking for a wife, and neither was she looking. We were older; I was 34 and she was 29."

He and Malvina, a nurse, raised three children. When their youngest was only 7 years old, Malvina diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She died in 2004. Athaide continued teaching at Capilano and UBC, then went on to work for the Canadian Labour Congress (and to teach courses on that subject, too).

In 2011, Archbishop J. Michael Miller released a letter to announce he was restoring the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Permanent deacons, he wrote, would have a theology degree and run a variety of parish and other ministries, including being allowed to officiate at marriages and funerals and preach homilies.

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Deacon Athaide at the Sacred Heart Parish chapel after Mass

Bishop urges solidarity with maritime workers and their families

By Rhina Guidos

During a May 18 homily celebrating the work and contributions of maritime workers, the bishop promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea ministry urged Catholics to pray for the largely unseen but important work of those who toil on the seas and for the hardships their families endure.

During the annual Mass to mark the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea, Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, called attention to not only to the work of maritime workers but also to the sacrifice of their families. Most people “really have no idea” of the physical work involved for those who work on the seas, Bishop Cahill said.

“The church has always been involved with us,” said Angela Sanfilipo, executive director of the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership and wife of a fisherman attending the maritime Mass, celebrated in the crypt church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Though her husband recently retired, she said she has seen firsthand the hardships fishing families go through, from child-rearing to affording education for children and even health services — not to mention the worries families have as they watch their loves ones go to work in the seas and the dangers that presents.



*Most Rev. Brendan Cahill homily the Maritime Day Mass May 18, 2019
Photo Courtesy of NAMMA*

This year, National Maritime Day, which took place on May 22, honored women working in the maritime

community.

After the liturgy, Kevin Tokarski, associate administrator for Strategic Sealift of the Maritime Administration, which is within the U.S. Department of Transportation, thanked the U.S. Catholic bishops for holding the Mass each year, and thanked the Apostleship of the Sea ministry for its “daily support to the women and men who pursue careers” in the sea and highlighted the contributions women in the industry.

He said the events at the Department of Transportation on Maritime Day honored special guest Catherine “Kay” Morrison, “a 95-year-old who once help build ships during her job as a welder at Kaiser Shipyard in Richmond, California, during World War II. The program also included speaker Jennifer Boykin, the first female president of Newport News Shipbuilding and a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Sister Joanna Okereke, national director of the Apostleship of the Sea, said that recognizing the work of people of the sea “is very important for the church,” which is why “every year,” she said, “the church remembers those who served as merchant mariners, seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas.”

“Bishop Cahill said, ‘We are filled with the joy of the spirit,’” she continued. “I believe it is the same spirit that leads us to welcome and serve others, especially the seafarers, fisher men and women, their families, and all who work or travel on the seas.”

Sister Okereke, a member of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus, also gave an invocation at the national events for Maritime Day sponsored by the Transportation Department, which included a wreath-laying ceremony and the ringing of eight bells for mariners.



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ at the Maritime Day Mass May 18, 2019



Angela and John Sanfilippo, representing the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership at the Apostle display and information table before Mass begins.
Inset: Display and information table.



Mr. Andrew K. Middleton, Diocesan Director Apostleship of the Sea, Baltimore read the first reading of the Mass. The Apostleship of Sea of Baltimore played a major role during the celebration of the Mass.



Bishop Cahill receives the gifts for the sacrament from Amy Middleton and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lensen who support the Apostleship of the Sea at the Port of Baltimore



Deacon Ebuka Mbanude, Bishop Brendan Cahill, Fr. Michael Weston Director of Liturgy, and Msgr. Vito Buonanno, Director of Pilgrimages at the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Kevin Tokarski, MARAD, thanked the U.S. Catholic Bishops for holding the Mass each year, and thanked the Apostleship of the Sea ministry for its "daily support to the women and men who pursue careers" in the industry.

Photo Courtesy of NAMMA



Mr. and Mrs. John Cookson on the left, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Middleton with Bishop Cahill, Center, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lenzen on the right during the reception following the Maritime Day Mass

National Maritime Day at the U.S. Department of Transportation

Every year our Nation observes National Maritime Day to honor the U.S. Merchant Marine and recognize the contributions of the American maritime industry. This year the U.S. Department of Transportation celebrated National Maritime Day on May 21, 2019 at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC.

Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ attends this annual event every year and along with others from time to time, including Bishop Cahill, Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea, and Bishop Dorsenville, provide spiritual leadership to the maritime community.

Many of those whose contributions to maritime industry and the Merchant Marine are honored at this national ceremony.

Highlighted this year at the ceremony was President's National Proclamation Letter for National Maritime Day Sr. Joanna gave the benediction this year.



ADMINISTRATOR

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Sister Joanna Okereke Ph.D.
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 4th street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194

Dear Sister Okereke:

On behalf of the Maritime Administration, I want to sincerely thank you for participating in our 2019 National Maritime Day. Your benediction for the men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine was quite notable.

The value of your participation in this year's ceremony highlighted the President's National Maritime Day proclamation when he stated:

"Because the United States Merchant Marine plays a central role in bringing American goods to market and in bolstering our military readiness abroad, we must encourage more people to pursue career opportunities on America's waterways and the oceans of the world. Merchant mariners extend goodwill into all parts of the world, serving as a peaceful United States presence on international waterways. Today, American mariners facilitate the import and export of billions of dollars of goods, including fuel, agricultural products, and raw materials through the Marine Transportation System. They are also among the first to respond to help their citizens in the wake of national disasters. For this reason, I recently signed an Executive Order to help veterans of the Armed Forces transition seamlessly into civilian careers in the United States Merchant Marine by allowing them to apply relevant military training and experience toward becoming credentialed merchant mariners. This will help support a robust, well-equipped, and safe merchant fleet crewed by well-trained mariners."

I am pleased to have you and your organization as a partner in promoting a strong and sustainable course for the future for the U.S. Merchant Marine and our Maritime Industry. I look forward to continuing MARAD's partnership with you and to seeing you at next year's National Maritime Day ceremony May 2020!

Blessings!

Sincerely,

Mark H. Buzby

Enclosure

Letter to Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ from Mark H. Buzby US Department of Transportation Maritime Administrator

The president's Proclamation can be view here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-maritime-day-2019/>



Honor Guard and Opening Ceremony, Maritime Day at the US Department of Transportation
Photo Courtesy of J. Hampton Guthrie



US Department of Transportation and guests observe National Maritime Day Ceremony
Photo Courtesy of Mike Hickey



Mark H Buzby, Maritime Administrator
Photo Courtesy of Mike Hickey



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ giving the final Benediction
Photo Courtesy of Mike Hickey

Press Release:
Newark Archdiocese
Sandy Hook Pilots Assoc.
Stella Maris Chapel

This past May 17th was the Third Anniversary of the Blessing of the Fleet of the Port of New York and New Jersey by His Eminence Joseph W. Tobin, Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Newark. The celebration of Mass and the Blessing took place on board the Sandy Hook Pilots Association's ninety-two foot vessel, NEW YORK.

One hundred plus guests and dignitaries boarded the vessel prior to the 9:00 AM departure. Once Cardinal Tobin boarded the NEW YORK, the ship departed Port Newark and Mass was celebrated by His Eminence.

The NEW YORK slowly made its way down Newark Bay through the Kill Van Kull into lower New York Bay. Mass ended by the time the NEW YORK reached the area of the Staten Island Ferry slip. Immediately following Mass, a buffet brunch was served in the dining room for all on board.

As the vessel proceeded up New York Bay toward the Statue of Liberty, the NYFD Fireboat, THREE FORTY THREE, welcomed His Eminence with a water cannon salute. Cardinal Tobin spent the remainder of the three hour cruise meeting with and greeting the guests and supporters of Stella Maris Chapel.

His Eminence was a gracious host who unselfishly made himself available to speak personally with every guest and posed for the obligatory pictures for those wishing to memorialize the occasion.

The Blessing and Mass was sponsored by Stella Maris Chapel and Father John Corbett, Pastor. Father Corbett is uniquely qualified to tend to the spiritual and corporal needs of the seamen and Port employees. Fr. John is a graduate of the New York Maritime College and a licensed Marine Engineering Officer who sailed on tankers before entering the seminary.

Cardinal Tobin's support for the Apostolate of the Sea is evident by his personal involvement in conducting the annual Blessing since being appointed by Pope Francis three years ago.

Additionally, the pilgrimage statue of Our Lady of Fatima was on board during the cruise. The statue is an exact replica of the statue of Our Lady in Portugal. The statue is sent around the world to foster a greater devotion to Mary, our Star of the Sea.

This annual event is only possible with the gracious and very generous support of the Sandy Hook Pilot's

Association, special thanks are in order to John Oldmixon, New Jersey President; John DeCruz, New York President; and Ed Burns, Port Engineer and to all the officers and crewmen of the Pilot Vessel NEW YORK.



His Eminence Joseph W. Tobin, Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Newark during the celebration of Mass
 Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Azzara



As the vessel proceeded up New York Bay toward the Statue of Liberty, the NYFD Fireboat, THREE FORTY THREE, welcomed Cardinal Tobin with a water cannon salute
 Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Azzara



Stella Maris Chapel serving Port Newark and Port Elizabeth, New Jersey

Annual Blessing of the Ports of Newark and New York

By Michael Fesen

On June 7, 2019; I was delighted to attend the Blessing of the Ports of New York and New Jersey. I was able to bring several family members, and the Pastor of our Church for the blessings. Our Pastor, Rev. G. Scott Shaffer, of the St. Joseph's Church of Toms River, N.J. celebrated Mass on the boat with Cardinal Tobin from the Diocese of Newark. It was the perfect day to attend this extraordinary Mass celebration aboard the Pilot boat. We had a beautiful 80 degree day, with approximately 100 patrons in attendance. It was a great day of fellowship and Catholic unity.

This was my third year to attend the Blessing of the Ports. It is a wonderful fund raiser for the local Maritime ministry of Stella Maris Church, and the Diocese of Newark.

I work for a local freight railroad in the area of the Ports. Several years ago, I received information regarding the Blessings of these Ports. Since then, I have become acquainted with Fr. John Corbett, Pastor of Stella Maris Church, from which this Blessing of the Ports has been organized. My family and myself, will continue to support the Apostleship of the Sea, as we can. We hope the annual Blessings of the Ports of New York and New Jersey will continue in the years to come. We know how important the fund raising of this ministry is in our area.

Psalm 107: 23-24 Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep.



Inspired by the presence of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, traveling with those involved in the blessing of the Port of New York and New Jersey, a fellow passenger shared this story with us:

From Anthony Rivera – Cursillo Brother from West Caldwell Parish – Notre Dame Church, North Caldwell

My Blessed Our Lady of Fatima - 9/11 story - on September 11, 2001, I was age 28 and a stockbroker trainee for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. I worked on the 73rd floor of Tower 2. On September 10th, the Monday before, my Mom tells me, "don't go to work tomorrow anak (son), we're going to renew our passports for our pilgrimage trip to Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. This would be our 2nd time going to the Shrine. I said, "Ok," and planned to go to work later in the afternoon when I was done taking care of my passport. So, on the morning of September 11th, I watched the pre-market activity on CNBC at my Parents house in West Caldwell, where usually I'm at work every morning at 8:30am. We must have received at least 30 phone calls to the house from family, friends and clients that knew I work at the World Trade Center. Low and behold, I was the one who answered each phone call. When the person on the other line found out that it was me they were talking to, they would break down and cry....I WAS BLESSED THAT DAY...The Blessed Virgin Mary spoke through my Mom the day before to keep me away from all that would happen on September 11th. MY FAITH SAVED ME...I placed my faith in the Lord and Mama Mary first. Who knows what I would be like today if I had been there that day. I still remember my good friends Maritess Santillian and Judy Fernandez, my high school classmate Brett Bailey and co-worker Lindsey Herkness, Jr. who lost their lives that day...and I pray for their souls on every 9/11 anniversary.

Please keep close to your faith, because you never know when it will save your life...please share my story with those who struggle in their faith and seek answers....Please pray. If you pray now, please pray more.

I'm sorry I could not share my Blessed story in person with you all tonight on this most Blessed of occasions, as I celebrate the 13th of every month from May to October each year for last 8 years at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, PA with my family.

God bless you all this day and always, Amen.

NOTES from the SEA PORTS



Grateful Appreciation

By John J Archer, Port of Mobile

In grateful appreciation for our ship visits and escort services provided, AoS Mobile received a nice gift from the Filipino crew members of M/V Sagittarius. The Filipino crew members pitched in a bought a clock embossed with the vessel name and the City of Tampico.

Crew members Antonio Cadelina, Edgardo Javalera, Erasmo Erive, Jay Velayo, Cris Vigil Omale, Kaisar Halmin and photographer Justin Ray Ochavillo presented the clock to Deacon John Archer during a recent ship visit.

The Sagittarius moves steel products between Mobile and Tampico, Mexico on a regular schedule. The clock has already made it to the wall of the ministry office.



Archbishop Thomas Rodi and the ministry welcomed the crew of M/V Banda Sea to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Mobile, Alabama on Palm Sunday on April 14, 2019. The Banda Sea is a liner between Mobile and Coatzacoalcas, Mexico. Photo From John Archer, Port of Mobile

Raymond Fontenot, Port of Lake Charles

How I came into the Apostleship of the Sea ministry is fairly simple. I was working at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church for nearly 11 years, which is also within the Diocese of Lake Charles, LA when the position of Assistant Director of Stella Maris Seafarer Center became available. I applied for the position with Director Deacon Patrick Lapointe and I'm very grateful for this opportunity that I now have with the Lake Charles Stella Maris Seafarer Center and the Apostleship of the Sea Ministries. I very much enjoy the new line of work that I'm in and wish to further my knowledge within these organizations.

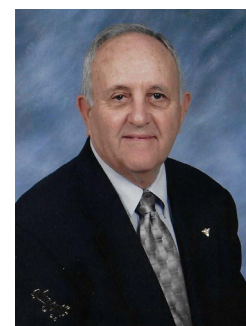


Raymond Fontenot serves as Assistant Director of the Stella Maris Seafarers Center. Lake Charles, LA

Patrick Edwin Broussard

(September 23, 1930 – March 29, 2019)

Patrick was one of the past directors of the Stella Maris Seafarers Center in Lake Charles, La. he serviced as director from September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1999. During his time as director he made great strides to further the ministry, his biggest task was the addition of 2270 sq.ft. to the building to double the size of the center adding a big game room with library, office space, restrooms and storage space. He was also tasked with applying for a grant for a replacement 15 passenger van to transport seafarers. In this time frame the center took care of 5544 ships according to the records kept. Mr. Broussard was instrumental in increasing the ministry to serving not only the city docks but also some of the chemical facilities and the refineries. He attended the Chaplaincy Training School at the Houston International Seaman's Center in Houston, TX. in 1991.



Patrick Edwin Broussard

Mr. Broussard served his country in the United States Navy during the Korean War and then attended McNeese State University. He also attended St. Joseph's Seminary. He retired from BellSouth after 27 years of service. He served as the Director for the Lake Charles Seafarers' Center. Mr. Broussard was a parishioner of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #15006 and Past Faithful Navigator of Monsignor Cramer's 4th Degree Assembly.



Apostleship of the Sea, National Office
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers
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AUGUST 13-16, 2019

NAMMA Annual Conference
Charleston, SC

<http://namma.org/conference-2019/>

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

AOS Breakfast with the Bishops
Baltimore, MD

